

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE TITLE

The title has been amended to more clearly indicate the nature of the invention to which the claims are directed, as required by the Examiner.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification, including the abstract, has been amended to correct minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware, including all of the informalities pointed out by the Examiner.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered, and that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

THE DRAWINGS

Figure-2 has been amended as indicated on the attached annotated sheet to change reference numerals "3.5" to "3, 5" and to change reference numerals "4.6" to "4, 6", as required by the Examiner.

Submitted herewith are a corrected sheet of formal drawing which incorporates the amendments to Fig. 2 along with an annotated sheet showing the changes made to Fig. 2.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new Fig. 2 be approved and entered and that the Examiner's objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 have been canceled, claims 13 and 19-22 have been amended, and claims 23-33 have been added.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in claim 21 whereby the radiographing section has a normal mode for conducting radiographing and a standby mode, and whereby the second operating device cancels the standby mode of the radiographing section. Claim 13 has also been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the first operating device is located remote from the radiographing section and is electrically connected thereto and whereby the second operating device is located in a vicinity of the radiography device.

In addition, claim 21 has been amended to better accord with amended claim 13, and claims 13 and 19-22 have also been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct minor antecedent basis problems, including all of the errors pointed

out by the Examiner, so as to place the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

Still further, new claims 23-33 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention.

New claim 23 has been added to recite the features of the present invention whereby the radiographing apparatus includes a radiographing section having a normal mode and a standby mode, and a control section connected to a network so as to receive a radiographing order for controlling the radiographing section, wherein when the radiographing section is in the standby mode, the control section cancels the standby mode in accordance with the radiographing order received through the network and puts the radiographing section in the normal mode, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 6, lines 3-7.

New independent claim 26 has been added to recite the features of the present invention whereby the radiographing apparatus comprises a radiographing section having a normal mode and a standby mode, an irradiating section for irradiating radiation to the radiographing section, and a control section for controlling the radiographing section, wherein under a condition that the radiographing section is in the standby mode, when the irradiating section is operated, the control section cancels the standby mode in accordance with the operation of the irradiating section and puts the radiographing section in the normal mode, as

supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 7, lines 11-21.

And new independent claim 30 has been added to recite the features of the present invention whereby the radiographing apparatus comprises a plurality of radiographing sections, each having a normal mode and a standby mode and each for independently radiographing a patient to obtain a medical image of the patient in the normal mode, and a control section for setting a standby mode condition to establish the standby mode for each of the plurality of radiographing sections.

New claims 24, 27 and 28, moreover, have been added to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the radiographing apparatus comprises a plurality of radiographing sections (and a plurality of irradiating sections).

New claims 25 and 29 have been added to recite the feature of the present invention whereby when the radiographing section does not conduct a radiographing operation for a predetermined time period, the radiographing section enters the standby mode.

New claim 31 has been added to recite the feature of the present invention recited in new claims 25 and 29 for the plurality of radiographing sections, and wherein the control section sets an individual predetermined time period for each of the plurality of radiographing sections.

New claim 32 has been added to recite that the individual predetermined time period for each of the plurality of radiographing sections is set based on a frequency of use of each of the plurality of radiographing sections.

New claim 33 has been added to recite the feature of the present invention whereby when all of the plurality of radiographing sections enters the standby mode, the control section enters the standby mode.

And new claim 34 has been added to depend from new claim 23 and to recite that the control section receives the radiographing order through the network from a server installed in a hospital.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 13 and 19-22 and the addition of new claims 23-34 be approved and entered.

CLAIM FEE

The application was originally filed with 22 claims of which 2 were independent, and the appropriate claim fee was paid for such claims. The application again contains 22 claims, of which 4 are now independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$86.00 for the addition of 1 extra independent claim is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to

charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-22 were variously rejected under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 in light of USP 5,572,567 ("Khutoryansky et al"), USP 6,027,247 ("Tachi et al"), USP 6,435,713 ("Iizuka"), USP 5,867,561 ("Strasser et al"), USP 4,918,714 ("Adamski et al"), USP 6,359,961 ("Aufrichtig et al") and USP 6,285,742 ("Haumann et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

Re: Claims 14-22

According to the present invention as recited in amended claim 13, the radiographing section has a normal mode for conducting radiographing and a standby mode, and the second operating device is located in the vicinity of the radiographing section and cancels the standby mode.

With this embodiment, even when the radiographing section is located remote from the first operating device, since the second operating device cancels the standby mode in the vicinity of the radiographing section, the radiographing operation can be conducted quickly efficiently.

Khutoryansky et al and Tachi et al, however, teach nothing at all about the above described feature of the present invention for canceling the standby mode.

With respect to Adamski et al (which the Examiner applied against now canceled claim 5), moreover, it is respectfully pointed out that this reference merely discloses a sleep mode and a wakeup signal but fails to disclose anything about receiving a radiographing order through a network and canceling a standby mode in accordance with such a radiographing order received through the network.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13, as well as each of claims 14-22 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Re: New Claims 25 and 34

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 23, when the radiographing section is in the standby mode, the control section cancels the standby mode in accordance with the radiographing order received through the network and puts the radiographing section in the normal mode. With this structure, since the standby mode is cancelled in accordance with the radiographing order received through the

network, it becomes easy to schedule the radiographing operation in accordance with the radiographing order.

Iizuka seems to disclose a plurality of radiographing devices (20, 30, 40) and a control apparatus, see Fig. 1.

The Examiner, however, acknowledges that Iizuka fails to teach a control section that establishes a standby mode, and it is also respectfully pointed out that Iizuka discloses nothing about a structure for receiving a radiographing order through a network.

Strasser et al seems to disclose a mobile X-ray unit shown in Fig. 1 thereof and to teach a normal mode, a sleep mode and a power down mode shown in Fig. 3 thereof. However, as can be seen from Fig. 1 of Strasser, the mobile X-ray unit thereof is provided with only a power cable 34 and is not connected to a network.

Accordingly, since neither of Iizuka and Strasser teaches anything about a structure for receiving a radiographing order through a network and for canceling a standby mode in accordance with the radiographing order received through the network, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in new independent claim 23, as well as each of new claims 24, 25 and 34 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Iizuka and Strasser et al under 35 USC 103.

Re: New Claims 26-29

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 26, under the condition that the radiographing section is in the standby mode, when the irradiating section is operated, the control section cancels the standby mode in accordance with the operation for the irradiating section and puts the radiographing section in the normal mode.

With this structure, even when the irradiating section is located remote from the control section, since the control section cancels the standby mode in accordance with the operation for the irradiating section, the radiographing operation can be conducted quickly efficiently.

Iizuka, however, discloses nothing about the normal mode and the standby mode.

And Strasser et al merely teaches canceling the standby mode when an operator operates a control panel of a unit and inputs an operator command. (See Fig. 3.)

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these references do not at all disclose, teach or suggest the structure and effect achieved by new independent claim 26 whereby a radiographing operation can be conducted quickly efficiently even when the irradiating section is located remote from the control section. And it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 26 and new claims 27-29 depending therefrom also patentably

distinguish over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Re: New Claims 30-33

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 30, a radiographing apparatus is provided which comprises a plurality of radiographing sections, each of which has a normal mode for independently radiographing a patient and a standby mode, and a control section for setting a standby mode condition to establish the standby mode for each of the plurality of radiographing sections.

With this above structure, the standby mode is established for each of the plurality of radiographing sections.

And since each of the plurality of radiographing sections conducts radiographing independently of the other radiographing sections, when a particular radiographing section does not conduct a radiographing operation for a predetermined time period, such radiographing section can enter the standby mode even while other ones of the radiographing sections remain in the normal mode.

As a result, power can be saved efficiently and the life of respective machine components of the plurality of radiographing sections can be prolonged.

As discussed above, Iizuka discloses nothing about the normal mode and the standby mode.

And Strasser et al merely teaches a sleep mode of a mobile unit in which a sleep mode is applied for plural sub-systems (machinery components) separately. In Strasser et al, however, when the mobile unit conducts the radiographing, all sub-systems become the normal mode.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Strasser et al teaches at all nothing about the feature of the present invention as recited in new independent claim 30 whereby one of a plurality of radiographing sections can enter the standby mode even while other ones of the radiographing sections remain in the normal mode.

And it is therefore respectfully submitted that new independent claim 30 and new claims 31-33 depending therefrom also patentably distinguish over Iizuka and Strasser et al under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Application No. 10/091,254
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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